

House File 39 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 39

BY HUNTER

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to a study of the economic, fiscal, and social
2 impact of the living wage in Iowa.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. LIVING WAGE IMPACT STUDY.

2 1. If funding is approved or appropriated to the state
3 board of regents for such purposes, Iowa state university
4 shall conduct a study regarding the economic, fiscal, and
5 social impacts of establishing a living wage, also known as a
6 self-sufficiency wage, in Iowa. The living wage in the study
7 shall be based on a 40-hour work week, and the study shall
8 include all of the following:

9 a. A proposal for a two-tiered living wage, one tier with
10 benefits and one without benefits, for family sizes ranging
11 from two people to six people for all 99 counties.

12 b. An evaluation of the impact that a living wage would have
13 on full-time workers, the multiplier effect of a living wage
14 on the economy, and whether more jobs would be created by this
15 multiplier effect.

16 c. How a living wage would impact public assistance
17 programs, particularly whether it would reduce costs.

18 d. How a living wage would impact state and local economic
19 development programs.

20 e. How a living wage would assist or hinder the housing
21 market.

22 f. Taking into account paragraphs "b", "c", "d", and "e",
23 an examination of whether there would be an overall positive
24 impact on the economy considering possible business concerns of
25 inflation and job loss.

26 g. An evaluation of other states or metropolitan areas that
27 have a living wage to provide examples of how a living wage
28 could be implemented on a phased-in basis for all workers in
29 this state, including the private and public sectors.

30 h. Any other recommendations that the persons conducting
31 the study believe are relevant to establishing a living wage
32 in this state.

33 2. An Iowa state university sociology professor, an
34 Iowa state university human development and family studies
35 professor, and an Iowa state university economics professor,

1 all who specialize in this area, shall conduct and coordinate
2 the study.

3 3. The department of workforce development, the economic
4 development authority, the department of human services, the
5 university of Iowa, the university of northern Iowa, the
6 child and family policy center, the Iowa policy project,
7 and representatives of labor organizations and associations
8 representing business and industry shall cooperate in
9 conducting the study.

10 4. Iowa state university shall submit a report regarding the
11 findings of the study to the general assembly by December 18,
12 2015.

13 EXPLANATION

14 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
15 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

16 This bill directs Iowa state university, contingent upon
17 funding, to conduct a study regarding the economic, fiscal, and
18 social effects that a living wage, or self-sufficiency wage,
19 would have in Iowa. The bill details the criteria that the
20 study must include. Three Iowa state university professors
21 with specialized knowledge in this area shall conduct and
22 coordinate the study.

23 The bill requires that the department of workforce
24 development, the economic development authority, the department
25 of human resources, the university of Iowa, the university of
26 northern Iowa, the child and family policy center, the Iowa
27 policy project, and representatives of labor organizations and
28 business and industry associations also participate in the
29 study.

30 A report on the study's findings is due to the legislature by
31 December 18, 2015.